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25th. HE was much better in all respects ; he slept pretty well last night, and could move his legs and arms very freely. There was still a spasm on his masseter muscles, as he could not freely open his mouth. Nothing was ordered but a continuance of his baths, liniments, clysters, frictions. The powders ordered for him yesterday not being yet expended.

26th. HE continued to mend, although he had not taken above 20 grains of opium the two preceeding days. There was no alteration in his spirits. The spasms were more relaxed. From this time he was visited less frequently, his medicines given more irregularly, but as he had spasms which recurred now and then till the 15th of July, he had his bath continued, and took about 3 jjs of musk, and 96 grains of opium in that space.

July 20th. HE is now perfectly well, in good spirits, and finds no inconvenience from his preceeding sickness, nor any mischief from the amazing quantity of opium he has swallowed down. It is to be noted that from the 16th he was put upon a course of nervous pills ex G. Assafoetid. and Cinnamon of Antimony without any opium.

LEST any person should imagine the opium which was made use of in this case, might not be good, I think proper to add that it was fresh, and appeared to be very good, being procured from Messrs. Bevan, Druggists in London ; and that it always answered to the usual effects of Opium in the common doses, in every other instance, having made sufficient use of it in my practice, to be certain of its quality.

An Account of the Effects of the STRAMMONIUM or Thorn-Apple.

By BENJAMIN RUSH, M. D. Professor of Chemistry, in the College of Philadelphia.

I WAS called to a child, (between three and four years old,) a few days ago, which appeared to be ill with a violent fever, delirium, tremors in her limbs, and a general eruption

eruption on her skin, accompanied with a considerable swelling, itching and inflammation. As the season for inflammatory diseases was now over, (it being the beginning of August) and as I had neither seen, nor heard, of any cases which bore the least resemblance to this in the city, I acknowledge I was much surprized at it, and knew not what cause to call in, to account for a fever attended with such acute symptoms, at a time of the year, when most of people, especially children, were subject to complaints of a very different nature. As her pulse was pretty full and strong, I immediately ordered her to loose a little blood, and gave her a few laxative medicines. Besides these, I ordered her to be put into a warm bath, and recommended the application of stimulating cataplasms to her feet. The opening medicines operated the evening after I gave them, and brought away a great number of the ascarides worms which I far from thinking were the cause of her disorder, as the symptoms still continued with as much violence as ever. I cannot help remarking here, that two of the most powerful vermifuge medicines we are acquainted with, viz. the *Anthelmia*, or *Worm-Grass* of Jamaica*, and the *Carolina Pink-Root*, are both considerably narcotic, and when taken in too large quantities produce effects somewhat similar to those of the *Stramonium*. Do their vermifuge depend upon their narcotic qualities alone? Are all narcotic substances vermifuge? Or may not they be rendered so, by administering purges after them, in the manner we are directed, after using the *Worm-Grass* and *Pink-Root*? These are questions, which are perhaps foreign to our present subject, and yet when resolved, may have their uses in medicine. But to return; the mother of the child finding most of the remedies we had used ineffectual, informed me for the first time, that they had a quantity of *Stramonium* growing in their garden, where the child generally played, and that she recollected that she had once been disordered in a slight manner, from eating some of the seeds of it. This led me immediately to treat her complaints in a very different manner from that I had formerly done. I gave her a puke of two grains of Tart. Emetic, dissolved in water by spoonfuls. It vomited her several times, but brought

* See Dr. Brown's Natural History of Jamaica.

brought nothing but phlegm from her stomach. After this I gave her sweet oil in large quantities, mixed with a little of the oleum Ricini, which in a little time brought away a great number of the Strammonum seeds. The relief she got from this evacuation, encouraged me to repeat the same medicine, which I did every day for near a week, till I began to flatter myself they were all discharged from the body. But notwithstanding this, she was far from recovering so rapidly as we wished. The tremors still continued in her hands at times; her delirium abated, but it left her stupid and blind. The pupils of her eyes were much dilated, and she caught at the bed clothes and at every thing around her, in the same manner as a person in the last stage of a fever. As I was persuaded the oil she had taken, had evacuated all such of the seeds as were in the guts, I began to suspect, that her complaints were still kept up by a few seeds which still remained in her stomach. I therefore gave her four grains of tart. emetic, in the manner I formerly mentioned, and had the pleasure to find, that it brought up above 80 of the seeds, the second time it puked her. Finding the stupor and blindness still continue, I repeated the puke, which brought up, above 20 more. Upon this all her complaints vanished, and in a few days she appeared perfectly well.

It may perhaps appear surprizing to some, how so many of the seeds of the Strammonium should be lodged so long in a child's stomach, without producing much worse effects than those we have mentioned, especially when we consider the accounts which Dr. Stork has given us of the effects of a very small quantity of it. In order to account for this, we must remark, that the seeds the child swallowed were of the last year's growth, and were become so dry and hard as to resemble little pieces of horn. Besides the seeds of the narcotic plants in general contain but very little of their virtues; even the seeds of the poppy itself may be taken in large quantities, without producing any of the effects of opium. Dr. Stork's experiments were made entirely with the extract of the Strammonium, two grains of which contain more of the narcotic quality of the plant, than three hundred of the dried seeds.

My

My chief design in relating the above case, is to make two observations, which may be of use in other cases.

1. WE learn the wonderful connection between the surface of the skin and the alimentary canal. Eruptions upon the skin are generally attributed to an acrimony in the blood. In the present case we see an eruption occasioned by acrid substances irritating the stomach and bowels. It would be easy to point out several other matters both of a vegetable and animal nature, which produce effects of the same kind almost as soon as they are received into the stomach, and long before they are supposed to have undergone its action, or of being mixed with the blood. It is impossible to tell, what species of the eruptive disease are occasioned by the presence of morbid matter in the *primæ viæ*; but in all those cases, where it is doubtful, it would not be amiss to suspect it, and to order our medicines accordingly. Dr. Korr (of St. Croix) informed me, that he had once an obstinate humour upon his arm, which alternated with a complaint in his stomach, arising from the too great predominance of an acid, and that he was never able to remove it with all the applications he could use, till he cured the disorder in his stomach by bitter and astringent medicines.

A SECOND observation upon the above case, which I would beg leave to make is, that pukes may often be given to evacuate the contents of the stomach, and notwithstanding they work tolerably well, may not answer the purposes we intended by them. How often do we discover the strongest marks of worms being lodged in the stomach, and yet how seldom are we able to bring them up from thence, by the ordinary pukes we administer. In this, and like cases therefore, it should be our practice to encrease the doses of our vomits, or to give such substances as will destroy the life, or virus of those things we would wish to expel from the stomach. Had the last puke, which I gave to the child, which had eaten the Stramonium seeds, failed of bringing them up, I have no doubt, but what the plentiful use of acids ¶, (which are such powerful
antidotes

¶ Since writing the above, I have had the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Thomas Bond, and Dr. Harris, an account of the good effects of Lemon Juice in a similar case, after the strongest pukes had been given to no purpose.

antidotes to other narcotic substances,) would have rendered them harmless. And if we may be allowed to reason from analogy, I think we may presume, that there is scarcely a poisonous substance in nature but what has an antidote provided for it. What these antidotes are, can never be determined by reasoning a priori, but must be found out by experiments alone. Considering the frequency of the accidents which arise from poisons, and the little relief we are able to afford in them, I cannot help thinking an enquiry into this subject a matter of great importance, and well worthy of the attention of the Faculty of Physic.

An ENQUIRY into the Nature, Cause, and Cure of the ANGINA SUFFOCATIVA, or Sore Throat Distemper, as it is commonly called by the Inhabitants of the City and Colony of New-York, &c. By SAMUEL BARD, M. D. and Professor of the Practice of Physic in King's College, New-York; communicated to JOHN MORGAN, M. D. F. R. S. Professor of the Theory and Practice of Physic, in the College of Philadelphia.

“ *AS a faithful and accurate history of diseases, their various*
 “ *symptoms and method of cure, is the most effectual way of*
 “ *promoting the art of healing; Physicians should describe, with*
 “ *the utmost care, the diseases they would treat of, and the good*
 “ *and bad effects of any method or medicines they have used in*
 “ *them. But in a more particular manner is this necessary, when*
 “ *any new and uncommon distemper occurs, of which the peculiar*
 “ *pathognomonic and diagnostic signs should be carefully laid down,*
 “ *and a particular account given of what evacuations, regimen*
 “ *and medicines were useful or hurtful in it.”*

Huxham, on Fevers, P. 267.

FROM a conviction of the truth and importance of these observations, and in obedience to the precept of so great a Man as Huxham, I have determined to attempt the history of a disease which has lately appeared among the children of this city, and which, both as an uncommon, and highly dangerous distemper, well deserves an attentive consideration. In
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